

PAGE 1/13 * RCVD AT 3/22/2006 3:34:18 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/21 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:216 752 0957 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-20

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Appl. No. 10/711,145
Amdt. Dated 03/22/2006
Reply to Office action of December 28, 2005

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 5144

In re : Application of Chen, et al.
For : **MAINTAINING UNIFORM CMP HARD MASK THICKNESS**
Serial No. : 10/711,145
Filed : August 27, 2004
Group Art Unit : 2823
Examiner : Phillip Green
Our Docket No. : FIS920040211US1
Customer No. : 24036

March 22, 2006

By Fax 571-273-8300

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2005 having a shortened statutory period of response set to expire on March 28, 2006.

Please amend the referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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